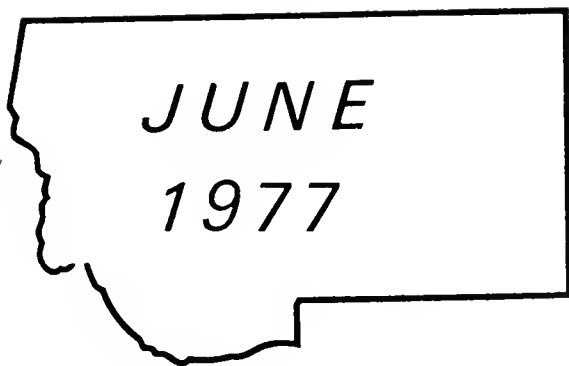


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STATE DOCUMENTS

MONTANA EMPLOYMENT

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LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

State of Montana
Employment Security Division
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Helena, Montana
59601



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MONTANA EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE

MONTHLY REPORT

JUNE 1977

STATE OF MONTANA

THOMAS L. JUDGE, GOVERNOR

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

Volume 7 Number 6

Produced by:
Research and Analysis
in cooperation with the
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment and Training Administration
and Bureau of Labor Statistics

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. Civilian Labor Force - the number of persons 16 years and older, defined as employed or unemployed, excluding members of the Armed Forces.
2. Employed - those persons who work for pay or profit during a week or, as unpaid family workers, work 15 hours or more during a week. Also included as employed are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, including persons temporarily absent from a job due to illness, bad weather, vacation, or labor-management dispute, whether or not they were in a pay status during their time off.
3. Unemployment - the number of persons who, for an entire week, did not work at all, were able to work and available for work, and (1) were looking for work or (2) would have looked for work except that (a) they were waiting to return to a job from which they had been laid off, or (b) they were waiting to report to a new wage and salary job scheduled to start within the following 30 days (and were not in school during the week).
4. Unemployment Rate - the number of unemployed expressed as a percent of the civilian labor force.
5. Residence Data - a count of employment by where people live.
6. Establishment Data - a count of employment by where people work.
7. Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Series - to facilitate the evaluation of the labor force, recurrent yearly movements have been isolated and removed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics seasonal factor method.
8. Composite Index - an aggregate of six leading indicators. The indicators used are: Manufacturing - Employment, Average Weekly Hours, total Accessions and Layoffs; Average Weekly Initial Claims; and statewide Building Permits. A reverse trend was used for Layoffs and Average Weekly Initial Claims. This composite index is in no manner or form comparable to the United States composite index as published in "Business Conditions Digest", U. S. Department of Commerce.
9. Real Spendable Average Weekly Earnings of Private Nonagricultural Production Workers - represents the earnings of a hypothetical individual after deductions for State Income, Federal Income and Social Security taxes, and adjustment for change in purchasing power since 1967. This individual is assumed to be sole support for a family of four, earn the average weekly gross earnings of production workers in Montana's private nonagricultural industries, and take standard deductions on State and Federal income taxes. Taxes were computed using standard tax tables, and purchasing power was adjusted by deflating Spendable Earnings based on the national Consumer Price Index.
10. WIN - Work Incentive Program for Aid to Dependent Children recipients.
11. CETA - Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1974.
12. CETA-CEP - Concentrated Employment Program funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
13. SMSA - Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as determined by Office of Management and Budget. Must have a central city with population of 50,000 or more.
14. LMA - Labor Market Area as determined by the Montana Employment Security Division consists of a central city or cities with population of less than 50,000, and the economically integrated geographical area surrounding it.

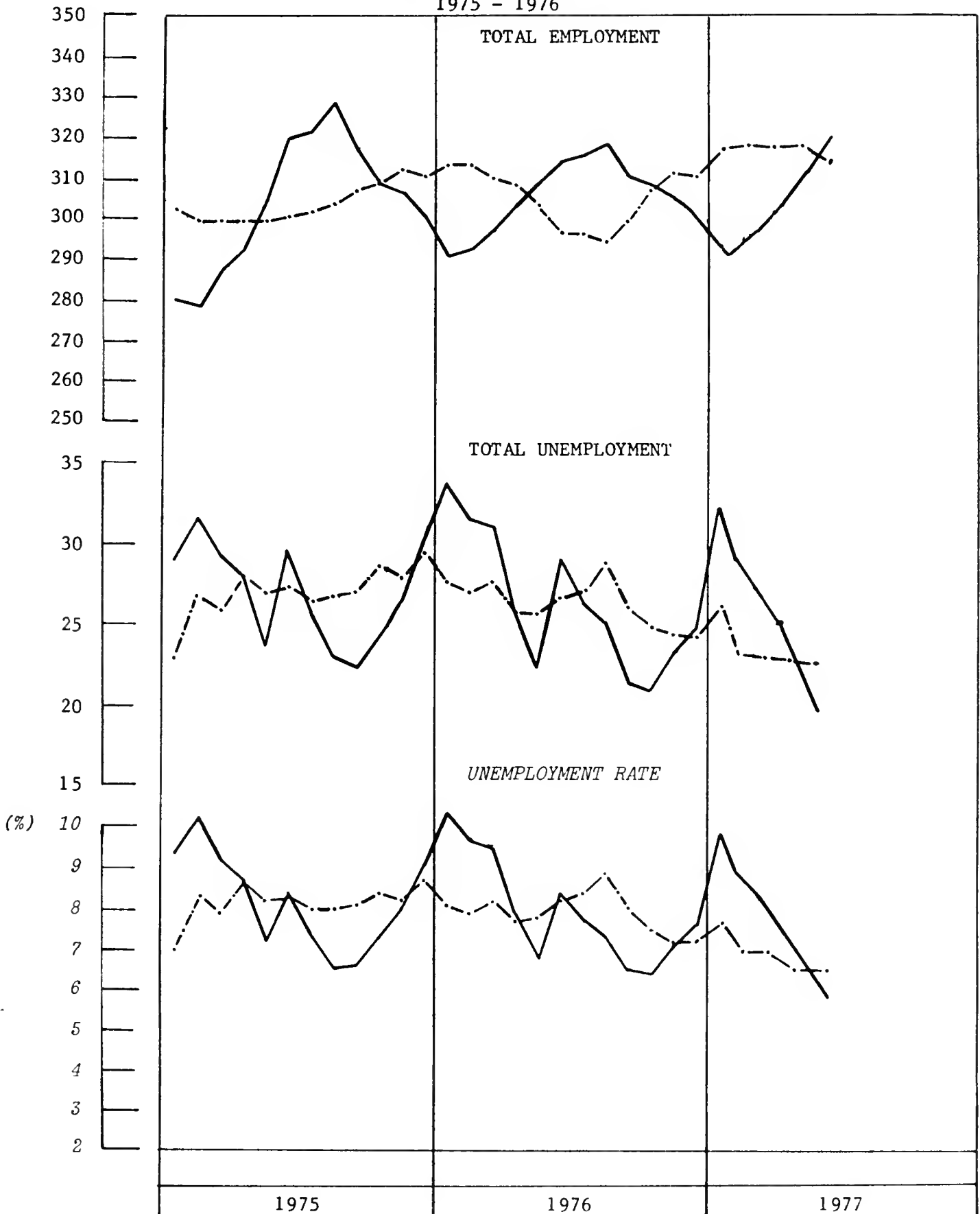
MONTANA EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: —)

(SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: ····)

1975 - 1976

(Thousands)



HIGHLIGHTS: MAY 1977



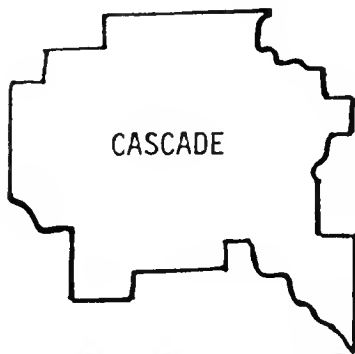
Not since 1974 had the unemployment rate in Montana dipped below 6.0%, but the statewide unemployment in May fell to 5.8% of the civilian labor force. Over 320,000 persons were employed, while unemployment totaled just under 20,000 individuals (a 15% decrease from April). At the same time, unemployment insurance claims decreased 26% from April to May; the resultant effect on unemployment totals was somewhat offset by the increase of re-entrants to the labor force.

Closer examination of claims data indicates that males fared much better in obtaining employment with a 30% decrease in claims for unemployment insurance, while claims filed by females decreased only 10%. The predominant occupational attachments among males continue to be the construction, and the lumber and wood products industries. Among female claimants, the last reported employment primarily was in eating and drinking establishments. Generally the filing of claims decreased in all occupational categories, reflecting the broad improvement in employment statistics in May.

With the exception of agriculture, Montana's economy has fared well in recent months. The unemployment rate is down, the layoff rate in manufacturing is down, the new hire rate is up and real spendable earnings have risen in both April and May. In fact, all the coinciding economic indicators (a good measure of present economic conditions) have shown improvement during the 2nd quarter of 1977.

However, there is some concern about a cooling off period in the next few months. After such a strong 1st and 2nd quarter showing, the economy is likely to flatten out in the 3rd quarter. Much has been said about how the energy policy will affect the economy for the remainder of the year. There certainly will be some consequences which will deter economic growth. Also, Montana's Leading Economic Indicators (an indication of future activity) have displayed slight declines. In May, Average Hours in Manufacturing fell below 40.0 hours for the first time since September 1976. Average Weekly Initial Claims were up in May. While the Composite Index of Leading Indicators performed well in March and April, the index should decline in May and possibly June. Montana seems to be entering a short period of limited economic growth. That is not to say that the economy will stagnate; it only means that Montana cannot expect the heightened economic activity that was witnessed during the first half of 1977.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cascade County)



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In the first five months of 1977, an average of 33,800 individuals participated in the civilian labor force in the Great Falls SMSA. This represents an annual gain of 3.4% from 1976 levels. May's employment rallied 500 from April to 32,900. The employment gains came from the non-agricultural sector as agricultural employment remained unchanged at 1,500. Construction and government jointly climbed 300 from last month's employment. On a year-to-date basis, transportation and services were the largest gainers with increases of 700 and 600, respectively.

The unemployment situation witnessed brighter days in April, as the jobless rolls dropped 300 to 1,800 individuals, or a 5.3% unemployment rate. May is typically one of the two lowest unemployment months of the year; nevertheless, the situation has improved considerably from recession riddled May of last year, when 7.3% of the labor pool were out of work.

GREAT FALLS

May Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	<u>Percent of All Continued Claims</u>	<u>Percent Change from the Previous Month</u>
Males	66%	-37%
Females	34%	-15%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Construction	34%	Eating & Drinking Places	12%
Automotive & Service Stations	10%	Hotels & Lodging Places	10%

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Highway construction resumed at full pace in early June as laborers went back to work on projects scattered throughout the state. As was noted in last month's issue, about 700 workers were directly involved in the labor dispute in the Great Falls area.

According to an article released in early June, Malmstrom Air Force Base spent under \$77.5 million for payrolls and goods and services in Montana during 1976. Of this about \$43.9 million went for military and civilian payrolls and \$33.6 million went for other items. The total economic effect of the air base cannot be accurately measured, although the income multiplier effect remains as an indicator of secondary spending activities. The general rule states that for every dollar pumped into the economy by a primary industry, an additional 2½ times this amount is generated by people receiving the dollars spent by the initial business entity.

Currently, work underway at the base includes: an industrial waste treatment facility, housing renovation, and a commercial transport facility.

GREAT FALLS SMSA (Cont.)

According to a report released by the Great Falls building inspector, April building permits were \$1.2 million above the same month a year ago. Total valuation for April's commercial and residential permits totaled \$2,124,578 compared with \$920,477 in April 1976.

Two Great Falls businessmen purchased a large building in the downtown area of the city. The building will be remodeled and converted into a 25,000 sq. ft. office building. Cost of the project is expected to hit around \$600,000. Work continues on the three-story 36,000 sq. ft. medical complex in the city with an expected completion date in November. The area could receive another boost, as a Memphis, Tennessee based express corporation is still considering Great Falls as the site for its Pacific Northwest package center.

The overall economic climate remains good in the Great Falls area. New businesses continue to move into the area and the job market is in the best shape since pre-recession days.

BILLINGS SMSA (Yellowstone County)

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



In May, 51,800 individuals participated in the Billings labor market, 3,700 above the same month one year ago. The employed work force totaled 49,500 in May, a gain of 600 from April. Agricultural employment advanced 100 to 1,800. Other industries recording employment gains from April include: manufacturing, transportation, communication and public utilities, trade, and services. In comparison with 1976 levels, trade and government jointly increased 2,000, with the other major industry groups combining for an increase of 1,200 workers.

In May, the number of unemployed persons dropped for the fourth consecutive month, declining 300 from April. The unadjusted unemployment rate hit 4.5%, which was the lowest rate recorded since October 1974, when the unemployment ratio hit 4.2%.

BILLINGS

May Claims Characteristics by Job Service Office

	<u>Percent of All Continued Claims</u>	<u>Percent Change from the Previous Month</u>
Males	78%	-24%
Females	22%	-4%

Last Industry or Occupation of the Unemployed

Males		Females	
Construction	52%	Eating & Drinking Places	16%
Wholesale Trade-Durable Goods	7%	Health & Education Services	14%

BILLINGS SMSA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A new commercial-office building is near completion in the Billings west side. The structure will contain a real estate business, wig shop, jewelry store and an oil broker, with two units still unoccupied.

A manufacturing firm announced that it will be moving into a new facility in the industrial park in Laurel. Construction has started on the new plant and it is expected to be completed by December of this year. The new building will be needed as the firm plans to expand production into bath tub and shower units in addition to the present lines of products. Initially, about 25 people will be employed at the plant, although the staff is expected to increase to near 40 by late 1978.

Sometime this summer, the science building at Eastern Montana College will be remodeled at a cost of \$636,000.

All totaled, four new restaurants opened their doors in the Billings area during recent weeks creating a good demand for service-restaurant help. Other shortage occupations include diesel mechanics, automobile mechanics, survey engineers and aides, and registered nurses. Seasonally large numbers of job seekers have registered for work opportunities in the Billings Job Service Office. However, job opportunities remain very good in all fields for qualified help.

It has been reported that Billings retailers have generally noted a sales slump, with agricultural buying particularly noticeable. The sales downturn has subsequently affected hiring in the trade sector.

Building permits for April and May both showed declines from their respective months a year ago. However, year-to-date permits through May are still running 108, (17%) ahead of 1976 levels. But it does appear that building activity has leveled off considerably from March, when a total of 279 permits were issued in the city. The problem does remain that this count reflects only the building activity in the Billings city limits, and much of the actual building is done outside the city limits.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In May, the employment ranks swelled 400 from the previous month, bringing the total employed work force to 30,300 in the six-county Anaconda-Butte labor market area. The employment gains were modest when spread among all of the counties in the area, with Deer Lodge County actually showing a loss of about 50 workers.

The number of unemployed persons totaled 2,500 in May, a drop of 400 from April. May's unemployment rate for the labor area averaged 7.6%, which represents a marked improvement from the 9% rate recorded for April and the 9.1% rate for May 1976. The individual counties varied from a low of 3.2% in Beaverhead County to a high of 9.4% in Granite County. Silver Bow and Deer Lodge counties recorded ratios of 8.8% and 8.6%, respectively.

ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA (Cont.)

Claims statistics from the three local employment offices in the area revealed that the largest percentage of male claimants were building and highway construction workers, and metal miners, while the greatest percentage of female claimants reported the health and educational services and eating and drinking establishments as last industries of employment.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

A total of 22 new firms entered the Anaconda-Butte labor area in May, as the positive trend for this indicator continues. During the first five months of 1977, new business formations totaled 146, compared with 85 new firms in the same period a year ago. General spending levels also appear ahead of 1976 levels. In fact, cumulative bank debits through April jumped 30% in Butte and 8% in Anaconda over the same period last year.

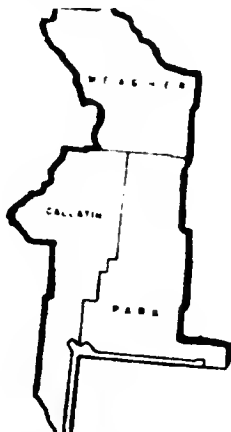
On June 30, 51 persons are expected to lose their jobs at the state hospital in Warm Springs. The layoffs will be necessary as the legislature cut funding at the hospital. Currently the hospital employs about 760 persons.

Retailers in both Butte and Anaconda remain reluctant to add to their payrolls despite a generally better sales climate than 1976. The skepticism emanates from fear of a possible labor dispute this summer between area miners and smelter workers and the large mining-smelting firm operating in the two cities.

The Dillon area continues to enjoy a comparably favorable economic climate. Several large construction projects are either underway or soon to be started, with the latest being a professional building and a hospital alteration project.

Primary agricultural activities include the moving of livestock to summer ranges, irrigation and general ranch work.

BOZEMAN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

A total of 23,400 individuals participated in the civilian labor force in May, down 3.7% from May 1976. The number of jobholders totaled 22,200, which is a gain of 500 from the previous month.

At the same time, the number of unemployed persons fell 400 from April to 1,200 persons in May, or 5.2% of the civilian labor force. This compares with 6.7% in April and 6.3% in May 1976. Following statewide trends, the unemployment situation has improved considerably from year ago levels in the three-county Bozeman labor market area.

Among those still unemployed, claims were still highest in the construction and trade industries. In Livingston just under one half of all male claimants were either building trades or highway construction workers. The motel-hotel, eating and drinking, and general merchandise stores were most often cited as last industries of employment among the female claimants in both the Bozeman and Livingston Job Service Offices.

BOZEMAN LMA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

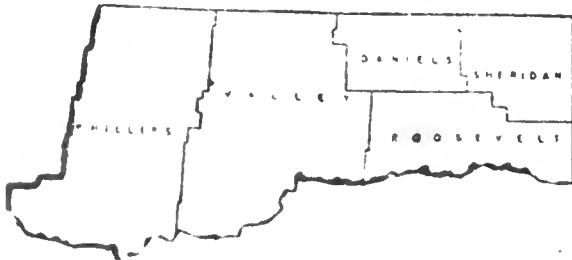
In May, 37 firms were added to the 1977 total for new business formations in the Bozeman labor market area. This brought the total to 201 new firms in the area, compared with 81 in the same period a year ago. Bank debits also reflected positive trends, with gains of 8% in Bozeman and 19% in Livingston from April 1976 to April 1977. In May 40 building permits were issued in the city of Bozeman at a valuation of \$991,032.

The agriculture industry highlights economic activity in the Bozeman-Livingston areas at this time. Between irrigation and June rains crops progressed at a good growth rate. As such, area farmers and ranchers began cutting alfalfa hay in mid-June.

At present job demand seems strongest in the food service industry, i.e., food servers, cooks and kitchen helpers. The opening of several large hotels, stores, and restaurants in Yellowstone National Park accented this demand.

GLASGOW LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Labor Force participation figures for May (17,100) indicate an increase of 500 labor force participants over the 16,600 reported in April. Compared with May 1976 figures, an annual growth rate of 11.8% is noted. Jobless rolls remain constant at 900, bringing May's jobless rate to 5.2%. When this rate is compared to the 1976 rate (4.4%), a slight increase is noted which is minimal when compared to the 11.8% growth rate in the labor force. The jobless rate declined .3% points from April.

Examination of claims filed in the area show that the majority of male claimants were last employed in structural work, while the majority of unemployed females were last working in clerical, sales or services.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction will begin shortly on a new car dealer's facility and a 100 unit apartment complex for senior citizens in Glasgow. Three new homes are also under construction, contributing to increased sales for lumber yards in the area.

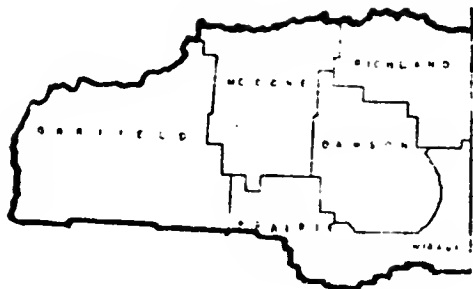
New car registrations are 35.3% below last year's figures and bank debits are also 1% below last year's figures. Seventeen new businesses have opened in May, bringing the year's total to 58, 5 ahead of last year's figures.

Labor force figures look favorable with an 11.8% increase in the labor force accompanied by a declining unemployment rate of 5.2%.

Business information depicts a slightly sluggish economy. As the May monthly report pointed out, low agricultural prices are having a significant effect on the region's business activity. Most likely, the farm sector is delaying major expenditures pending the outcome of fall and winter agriculture prices, fall harvest, and government subsidy programs.

GLENDIVE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Labor market participation increased by another 400 people in May, bringing the Glendive area labor force to 14,000, a 12% increase over May 1976. Unemployment for this month totaled 400, a 3% unemployment rate; (.1% points below the rate for May 1976 and 1.1% points below the April 1977 rate).

Claims data reflect that unemployment was highest for males in structural work and for females in clerical sales and services.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Construction activity appears stable in the Glendive area with general laborers returning to work the middle of June. Three new building permits were issued in Glendive during the first three weeks in June, two for commercial additions and one for a residential addition. A new bank is nearly complete and is expected to open in July, meanwhile, work is continuing on the savings and loan association offices.

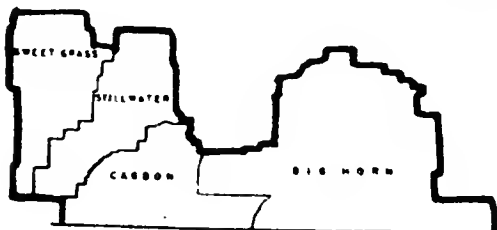
A total of 71 new businesses have opened in the Glendive area for the first five months of this year - 22 of which opened in May with 14 of these being in Richland County. When this figure is compared with last year's figure, a 97.22% increase is noted in the number of new businesses. Bank debits, a rough indicator of consumer spending for goods and services, also show a favorable trend. Figures for Glendive in April 1977 total 27,340, a 5% annual increase, while Sidney bank debits are 18% over last year's figures. On the other hand, new car registrations for the area are 45.8% below the registrations for the same period last year.

On the whole, the Glendive LMA appears in good shape, particularly with the unemployment rate at a low 3%, bank debits up 5% in Glendive and 18% in Sidney, and new business openings increasing 97.22%.

Again, however, new car registrations are a whopping 45.8% below registrations in 1976. Contributing factors could be low agricultural prices and unpredictable crop yields in the area.

HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



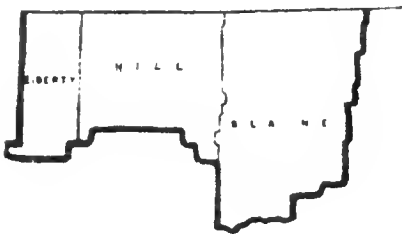
Between April and May, total labor force figures rose from 11,700 to 11,900. Unemployment rates declined from 5.8% in April to 5.0% in May. A 1% decline was also noted in the unemployment rate from May 1976 to May 1977. (May 1976 rate was 6%, May 1977 rate was 5%) Big Horn County accounts for 50% of this region's unemployment population.

HARDIN-RED LODGE (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New car registrations continue to be well below last year's levels. For the first four months of 1977, the Hardin Area had a total of 187 new car registrations, 26.7% below the total for 1976. Eight new businesses opened in May bringing this year's total to 44, a 41.9% increase over last year's figure of 31. Rainfall is 35.21% below normal for the Red Lodge area. If below normal moisture levels persist, decreased crop yields may inhibit spending in the area.

HAVRE LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In the Havre labor market area the labor force increased to 12,700 in May from 12,500 in April, a 13.4% increase over last year's May figure. The rise in the labor force was accompanied by a decrease in the unemployment rate to 4.0%, well below the 5.2% rate of a year ago.

Examination of the claims characteristics in the Havre region showed the majority of male unemployed were previously employed in construction and oil and gas extraction. The majority of females who filed were last working in membership organizations.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Seasonal agricultural work continues with the main activities being summer fallowing, rock picking, haying and irrigation. Rainfall is at normal levels.

Construction work is active, as are retail sales, but the service industry is providing the most hiring activity.

Bank debits for April dropped 30% when compared with last year's debit figures, which show quite a contrast to the 40% increase in bank debits for the first quarter of 1977.

The USDA's index of prices received by Montana farmers stands 30 points below last year and is the lowest May 15th index since 1972. Low agricultural prices have certainly discouraged consumer spending in the area. New car sales are declining, as the 30.77% drop in new car registrations (from May 1976) demonstrates.

HELENA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In May, employment levels in the Helena labor area increased to 23,200 individuals with 19,000 being employed in Lewis and Clark County. This showed an increase of 700 workers from the same month a year ago. At the same time, the unemployment rolls fell to 1,200, a decrease of 200 individuals from April. This is also 200 below May 1976 totals.

HELENA (Cont.)

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

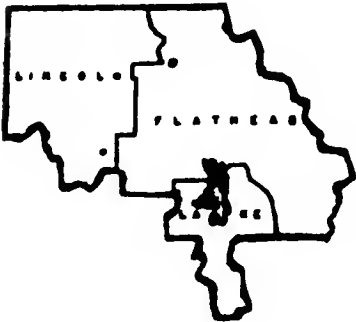
In the city of Helena, bank debits still show a positive trend with a cumulative total through April of \$3.9 million, 29% ahead of 1976 levels. On the negative side, new car registrations for the first five months of this year show a decrease of 10% from the same period one year ago. This is a misleading indicator, however, as the Helena labor market area is experiencing one of the smallest declines in the state.

Housing construction continues as a bright spot in the Helena area with an unprecedented number of houses under construction. The downtown mall is getting new shops although business is reportedly sluggish among present stores in the area. A desire has been expressed to provide free parking for downtown shoppers by taxing those merchants in that area to encourage business activity. However, the overall retail picture still remains good. In fact, the city is gaining another large retail outlet, as work is started on a chain grocery store.

The Helena job service office reported that openings presently exist for general farmhands and irrigators, while in the other major occupational groups, supply is meeting demand.

KALISPELL LMA

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Employment in the Kalispell labor market area has increased by 1,300 workers, bringing the total employed work force in May to 28,300 - a 3,000 increase over May of a year ago. The number of unemployed persons decreased by 900 to 3,000 in May. This is also reflected in the unemployment rate for the area which dropped to 9.6% in May from 12.5% in April and 12.5% in May of 1976.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

New business formations for the year-to-date total 245 compared with 116 this time a year ago, which represents a 111% annual increase. Flathead County showed the largest volume increase, an increase of 90 new firms. Bank debits continue to portray positive trends for the city of Kalispell, showing a 17% increase in the first four months of this year over the same period a year ago.

The construction industry remains steady with a \$1.5 million low cost housing project for the elderly beginning in Kalispell. The completion date is set for April 1978.

In Libby, there are tentative plans for a copper and silver mining operation south of Troy. The total construction cost is estimated to be \$14 million and would certainly have a positive economic impact on the Libby area; however, only road construction has begun with the initial construction of the operation itself expected to start in July 1978. The estimated employment is 150 the first year, 200 in the summer of 1979 and about 300 at the peak period, 1980-1981.

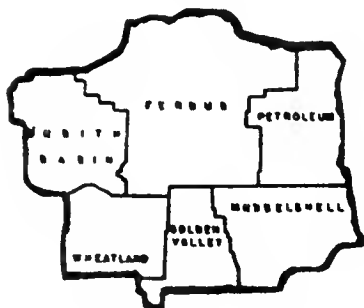
When the mining operations materializes, milling and smelting processes will be included near the actual mine site.

KALISPELL (Cont.)

Also, the Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$2.2 million contract for the stilling basin repair on Libby Dam.

Hiring was noted in the wood products industry as logging operations show steady improvements. Retail and service industries continue to hire as the influx of tourist traffic continues.

LEWISTOWN LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

In May, the employed labor force jumped 500 from April to 10,000 workers, but down 200 from year ago levels.

The number of unemployed persons dropped from 600 in April to 500 in May, 4.9% of all civilian labor force participants. However, this compares with a 4.6% rate in May of 1976.

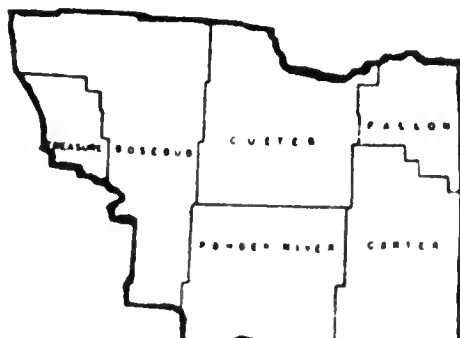
Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

Lewistown is in the process of gearing up for an influx of 1,600 workers and their families when work begins on the update of 120 minuteman missile installations in the area.

They will start arriving in October or November with the peak period expected in January of next year. Some immediate effects on the economy are: the construction of a new trailer court to provide room for 142 mobile homes, the building of new homes, the construction of school additions, and the installation of new underground telephone lines.

Tentative plans have been announced to begin operations of a \$1.1 million sawmill in Judith Gap, with the first shift estimated to begin operating the mill in September and a seasonal shift to be added soon after. Log hauling and construction on the building is underway at the sawmill location.

MILES CITY LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

The civilian labor force for the Miles City labor area totaled 14,800 individuals in May, 3.9% below a year ago. The number of job holders reached 14,200, up 400 from the previous month. However, unemployment remained at the same level for a 3.9% rate. This compares with a 4.5% unemployment rate for the previous month. The Miles City labor area still holds the distinction of having the second lowest rate among the labor areas in the state.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Miles City labor area registered 14 new business firms for the month of May, bringing the year-to-date total to 59, or 34% more than one

MILES CITY (Cont.)

year ago. However, new car sales lag well behind a year ago, with a 38% decrease to date.

After many appeals and court delays, initial work has finally begun on the construction of two coal-electric generating plants. The units are more commonly known as Colstrip Units three and four. About 40 workers are presently involved in the site preparation activities.

Several highway construction projects continue in the Miles City area contributing greatly to the economic stability of the area.

MISSOULA LMA



Employment and Unemployment Situation:

An additional 800 workers became employed in the Missoula labor market area during May, bringing the four-county employment total to 40,300.

The unemployment rate in May slipped to 7.7% from the 9.3% rate in April but will be expected to rise again in June, due to re-entrants in the labor market brought about primarily by the closing of schools.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

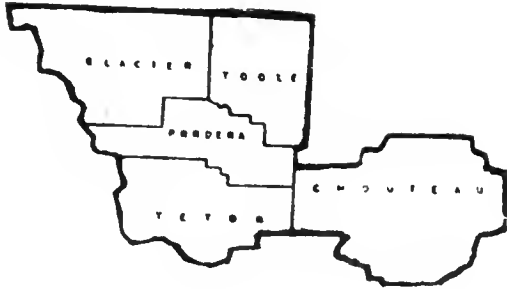
During the first five months of 1977, a total of 327 new business firms registered in the Missoula labor market area, a 152% gain over the same period a year ago. At the same time, bank debits have shown a 15% gain over last year.

The Economic Development Administration has announced that the city and county of Missoula will receive a large sum of money to fund various projects. This should have a positive impact on employment with construction projects including renovation of the county courthouse, improvements at the Missoula airport, road and street building and repair, as well as other projects.

In the Hamilton area, over 50 workers began seasonal work for the U.S. Forest Service, most of which were recalls from last summer. Main agricultural activities included field preparation and planting.

The Thompson Falls Job Service office reported an influx of workers and the local economy is gaining momentum with employment levels rising in all industrial categories. However, the Plains sawmill is shut down for plant modifications and a labor dispute continues at the Noxon Dam.

Employment and Unemployment Situation:



Labor Force participation rose by another 700 people, bringing the Shelby area's labor force to a total of 16,900 people. A decrease of 1.2% is noted in the unemployment rate between April 1977 and May 1977, bringing the unemployment rate to 5.1% for May 1977. This rate is .4% points below the rate for May 1976.

Claims in the Shelby region show that the majority of both unemployed male and female workers were last employed in structural work.

Economic Highlights and Employment Outlook:

The Shelby local office reports jobs available in the following categories: hotel/motel cleaners, carpenters, laborers, farmhands and cashiers.

Eighty-four new homes are being constructed in the Browning area along with other homes which are being constructed by the Blackfeet Indian Developers. A new grain elevator is also under construction at Merriwether, a small town 20 miles west of Cut Bank. Plans are nearly completed for a shopping center which should go under construction sometime in July or August. The overall employment picture looks very good.

Farmers were relieved when early June rains soaked extremely dry crops. The crops are looking very good and are expected to recover from the long dry spell.

New car registrations declined 24.49% from May of 1976. Bank debits for Cut Bank were down 1% from May 1976. Both indicate a slight negative trend in the Shelby region's economy. However, employment opportunities for the region look good and new business openings have more than doubled over last year's figures (49 to 101).

MANPOWER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

May 1977

<u>Program</u>	<u>New Enrollees</u>	<u>Job Placements</u>	<u>End of Month Enrollment</u>
WIN	218	148	2,209
CETA-CEP	73	49	232
CETA-INST.	104	93	543
CETA-OJT	87	43	241
JOB CORPS	38	26	361
PSE TITLE II	49	13	296
PSE TITLE VI	140	61	852
PSE TITLE VI "A"	119	7	98

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - U. S.^{1/} (1967 = 100)

Percent Change From:

<u>Group</u>	<u>May 1977</u>	<u>Apr. 1977</u>	<u>May 1976</u>
All Items	180.6	.6%	6.7%

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED^{2/} May 1977

<u>Social Characteristics</u>	<u>Percent of Total Covered Unemployment</u>
Non-White	5.7%
Female	34.1%
Youth	11.5%
Over 45	22.7%

^{1/} The Consumer Price Index measures changes in prices of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, including families and single persons.

^{2/} Based on 20% sample of Continued Claims filed during the week including the 19th of each month in all local offices.

Table I
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agrl.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	308.7	279.8	253.0	26.8	28.9	9.4	9.0	*
February	309.6	278.2	250.8	27.4	31.4	10.2	9.1	.1
March	316.6	287.3	257.1	30.2	29.3	9.2	9.1	.3
April	320.3	292.3	259.4	32.9	28.0	8.7	8.6	.2
May	327.9	304.3	267.3	37.0	23.6	7.2	8.3	.1
June	349.1	319.7	278.9	40.8	29.4	8.4	9.1	.1
July	346.9	321.3	279.1	42.2	25.6	7.4	8.7	.2
August	350.9	327.9	280.7	47.2	23.0	6.6	8.2	*
September	340.2	317.7	279.3	38.4	22.5	6.6	8.1	.3
October	332.6	308.4	274.4	34.0	24.2	7.3	7.8	.3
November	332.4	305.8	274.3	31.5	26.6	8.0	7.8	.2
December	330.7	300.6	271.4	29.2	30.1	9.1	7.8	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	324.8	291.2	262.4	28.8	33.6	10.3	8.8	*
February	323.6	292.1	263.3	28.8	31.5	9.7	8.7	*
March	328.3	297.3	265.8	31.5	31.0	9.5	8.1	*
April	328.6	302.8	267.8	35.0	25.8	7.9	7.4	*
May	330.4	308.1	271.0	37.1	22.3	6.8	6.7	*
June	343.0	314.1	273.0	41.1	28.9	8.4	8.0	.1
July	341.6	315.3	275.2	40.1	26.3	7.7	7.8	.1
August	341.4	318.0	273.3	44.7	23.4	6.9	7.6	.1
September	330.1	309.9	274.3	35.6	20.2	6.1	7.4	.1
October	329.0	308.0	275.1	32.9	21.0	6.4	7.2	.1
November	328.5	305.2	276.0	29.2	23.3	7.1	7.4	.1
December	326.0	301.3	275.4	25.9	24.7	7.6	7.4	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	7.8	7.7	.1
1977								
January	323.8	292.1	270.9	21.2	31.7	9.8	8.3	.1
February	325.0	295.9	272.8	23.1	29.1	9.0	8.5	.1
March	329.1	302.3	274.5	27.8	26.8	8.1	7.9	.1
April	338.0	314.4	277.4	37.0	23.6	7.0	6.9	.1
May	339.9	320.1	281.9	38.2	19.8	5.8	6.4	.1
June	353.9	331.4	287.9	43.5	22.5	6.4		.1
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

RESIDENCE DATA

Table II
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	31.1	28.5	27.4	1.1	2.6	8.3	9.4	*
February	31.2	28.2	27.1	1.1	3.0	9.7	10.2	*
March	31.8	29.0	27.8	1.2	2.8	8.7	9.2	.1
April	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.3	8.7	.1
May	32.7	30.3	28.8	1.5	2.4	7.3	7.2	*
June	33.7	30.9	29.3	1.6	2.8	8.4	8.4	*
July	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.1	7.4	*
August	33.7	31.2	29.3	1.9	2.5	7.4	6.6	*
September	33.3	30.9	29.4	1.5	2.4	7.3	6.6	*
October	33.0	30.3	29.0	1.3	2.7	8.1	7.3	*
November	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	7.9	8.0	*
December	33.0	30.2	29.0	1.2	2.8	8.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	32.4	29.2	28.1	1.1	3.2	9.8	10.3	*
February	32.2	29.3	28.2	1.1	2.9	9.1	9.7	*
March	32.9	29.9	28.7	1.2	3.0	9.2	9.5	*
April	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	7.9	7.9	*
May	33.5	31.2	29.7	1.5	2.3	6.9	6.8	*
June	35.0	31.7	30.1	1.6	3.3	9.3	8.4	*
July	34.4	31.5	29.9	1.6	2.9	8.3	7.7	*
August	34.2	31.7	29.9	1.8	2.5	7.2	6.9	*
September	33.5	31.5	30.1	1.4	2.0	6.1	6.1	*
October	33.8	31.6	30.3	1.3	2.2	6.6	6.4	*
November	33.7	31.4	30.2	1.2	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
December	33.5	31.3	30.3	1.0	2.2	6.5	7.0	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.8	*
1977								
January	33.4	30.4	29.6	.8	3.0	8.9	9.8	*
February	33.2	30.7	29.8	.9	2.5	7.5	9.0	*
March	33.7	31.5	30.4	1.1	2.2	6.5	8.1	*
April	34.5	32.4	30.9	1.5	2.1	5.9	7.0	*
May	34.7	32.9	31.4	1.5	1.8	5.3	5.8	*
June	36.0	33.8	32.1	1.7	2.2	6.2		*
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table III
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
County	State							
1975								
January	45.4	42.0	40.8	1.2	3.4	7.6	9.4	*
February	45.1	41.5	40.2	1.3	3.6	8.0	10.2	*
March	45.6	42.0	40.6	1.4	3.6	7.9	9.2	.1
April	46.8	43.4	41.9	1.5	3.4	7.3	8.7	*
May	47.1	44.5	42.8	1.7	2.6	5.6	7.2	*
June	49.0	45.6	43.7	1.9	3.4	7.0	8.4	*
July	49.5	46.3	44.4	1.9	3.2	6.5	7.4	*
August	49.2	46.1	43.9	2.2	3.1	6.2	6.6	*
September	48.5	45.6	43.8	1.8	2.9	5.9	6.6	.2
October	48.4	45.6	44.0	1.6	2.8	5.8	7.3	.2
November	49.2	46.4	45.0	1.4	2.8	5.8	8.0	*
December	48.6	45.4	44.1	1.3	3.2	6.5	9.1	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	47.4	43.7	42.4	1.3	3.7	7.9	10.3	*
February	47.1	43.8	42.5	1.3	3.3	7.0	9.7	*
March	47.5	44.1	42.7	1.4	3.4	7.2	9.5	*
April	48.3	45.4	43.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.9	*
May	48.1	45.8	44.1	1.7	2.3	4.8	6.8	*
June	50.7	47.2	45.3	1.9	3.5	6.9	8.4	*
July	50.4	47.2	45.4	1.8	3.2	6.3	7.7	*
August	49.8	47.1	45.0	2.1	2.7	5.5	6.9	*
September	50.0	47.6	46.0	1.6	2.4	4.7	6.1	*
October	50.7	48.3	46.8	1.5	2.4	4.6	6.4	*
November	51.0	48.5	47.2	1.3	2.5	4.9	7.1	*
December	50.8	48.0	46.8	1.2	2.8	5.6	7.6	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.8	*
1977								
January	50.7	46.9	45.9	1.0	3.8	7.5	9.8	*
February	50.8	47.4	46.3	1.1	3.4	6.6	9.0	*
March	51.1	48.1	46.8	1.3	3.0	5.9	8.1	*
April	51.5	48.9	47.2	1.7	2.6	5.0	7.0	*
May	51.8	49.5	47.7	1.8	2.3	4.5	5.8	*
June	52.0	49.7	47.7	2.0	2.3	4.5		*
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Series began January 1970.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

* Under 50.

Current month in italics is a forecast; previous month preliminary.

Table IV

RESIDENCE DATA
(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

MONTANA

Statewide Employment by Industry

May 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Net Changes to Current Month from:	
				Apr. 1977	May 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	339.9	338.0	330.4	1.9	9.5
EMPLOYED PERSONS	320.1	314.4	308.1	5.7	12.0
Persons Employed in Agriculture	38.2	37.0	37.1	1.2	1.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	19.8	23.6	22.3	-3.8	-2.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.8	7.0	6.8	-1.2	-1.0
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/}	6.8	6.8	7.7	0	-.9
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS (Establishment Data) ..	251.3	248.5	242.2	2.8	9.1
MANUFACTURING	23.8	23.1	21.9	.7	1.9
Durable Goods	15.4	14.7	14.1	.7	1.3
24 Lumber and Wood Products	9.0	8.6	8.2	.4	.8
33 Primary Metal Industries	3.4	3.3	3.2	.1	.2
Other Durable Goods	3.0	2.8	2.7	.2	.3
Non-durable Goods	8.4	8.4	7.8	0	.6
20 Food and Kindred Products	4.1	4.0	3.5	.1	.6
27 Printing and Publishing	1.8	1.9	1.9	-.1	-.1
29 Petroleum and Coal Products	1.1	1.1	1.1	0	0
Other Non-durable Goods	1.4	1.4	1.3	0	.1
MINING	5.7	5.5	5.8	.2	-.1
10 Metal Mining	2.1	2.1	2.3	0	-.2
12 & 14 Bitum. Coal, Quarrying, Non-Metal Mining ...	1.5	1.6	1.6	-.1	-.1
13 Oil and Gas Extraction	2.1	1.8	1.9	.3	.2

<u>CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION</u>	12.9	11.9	11.0	1.0	1.9
15 General Building Contractors	4.6	4.2	3.8	.4	.8
16 Heavy Construction Contractors	3.5	2.9	3.0	.6	.5
17 Special Trade Contractors	4.8	4.8	4.2	0	.6
<u>TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES</u>	20.0	19.9	19.2	.1	.8
40 Railroad Transportation	6.2	6.2	6.0	0	.2
41-47 Transportation, except Railroad	6.1	6.1	5.9	0	.2
48 & 49 Commun., Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services ..	7.7	7.6	7.3	.1	.4
<u>WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE</u>	62.1	61.0	60.3	1.1	1.8
Wholesale Trade	13.1	12.4	12.0	.7	1.1
Retail Trade	49.0	48.6	48.3	.4	.7
53 & 56 General Merchandise, Apparel, Accessories .	8.1	8.0	8.1	.1	0
54 Food Stores	7.0	6.8	6.4	.2	.6
55 Automotive Dealers, Service Stations	8.0	8.0	7.9	0	.1
58 Eating and Drinking Places	15.9	15.9	16.2	0	-.3
52, 57, 59 Bldg. Mat., Farm Equip., Furn., Misc. ..	10.0	9.9	9.7	.1	.3
<u>FINANCE, INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE</u>	11.0	11.0	10.5	0	.5
<u>SERVICES</u>	47.4	47.6	45.2	-.2	2.2
70 Hotels and other Lodging Places	5.8	6.0	5.0	-.2	.8
72 Personal Services	2.6	2.6	2.5	0	.1
80 Medical and other Health Services	15.6	15.6	14.6	0	1.0
Other Services	23.4	23.4	23.1	0	.3
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	68.4	68.5	68.3	-.1	.1
91 Federal Government	13.2	13.1	13.9	.1	-.7
92 State Colleges and Universities	8.8	9.1	9.6	-.3	-.8
92 Other State Government	10.7	11.1	10.1	-.4	.6
93 Local Education	22.3	22.3	21.9	0	.4
93 Other Local Government	13.4	12.9	12.8	.5	.6

- 1/ Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. Current month preliminary. Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.
- 2/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers. Establishment Series began January 1964; Residence Series began January 1970.

RESIDENCE DATA

(ESTABLISHMENT DATA in italics)

Table V
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Employment by Industry

MAY 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Apr. 1977	May 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	34.7	34.5	33.5	.2	1.2
EMPLOYED PERSONS	32.9	32.4	31.2	.5	1.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.5	1.5	1.5	0	0
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	1.8	2.1	2.3	-.3	-.5
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	5.3	5.9	6.9	-.6	-1.6
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	5.7	6.3	7.3	-.6	-1.6
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS					
(Establishment Data)	29.9	29.6	27.5	.3	2.4
Manufacturing	1.9	1.9	1.7	.0	.2
Contract Construction	1.8	1.7	1.5	.1	.3
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	2.0	2.0	1.3	0	.7
Wholesale and Retail Trade	8.8	8.8	8.6	0	.2
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.1	2.1	1.9	0	.2
Services and Mining	7.0	7.0	6.4	0	.6
Government	6.3	6.1	6.1	.2	.2

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships;
includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 benchmarks.

Table VI
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Employment by Industry

MAY 1977

in Thousands

INDUSTRY	Net Changes to Current Month from:				
	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Apr. 1977	May 1976
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE - PERSONS ^{1/}	51.8	51.5	48.1	.3	3.7
EMPLOYED PERSONS	49.5	48.9	45.8	.6	3.7
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1.8	1.7	1.7	.1	.1
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS	2.3	2.6	2.3	-.3	0
Percent of Labor Force, Unadjusted ^{2/}	4.5	5.0	4.8	-.5	-.3
Percent of Labor Force, Seasonally Adjusted ^{2/} ..	5.2	5.2	5.5	0	-.3
<hr/>					
NON-FARM WAGE AND SALARY JOBS					
(Establishment Data)	42.6	42.3	39.4	.3	3.2
Manufacturing	3.9	3.8	3.4	.1	.5
Contract Construction	2.0	2.1	1.9	-.1	.1
Transportation and Public Utilities ...	3.4	3.3	3.3	.1	.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade	14.1	13.9	13.0	.2	1.1
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	2.2	2.2	2.0	0	.2
Services and Mining	8.6	8.5	8.3	.1	.3
Government	8.4	8.5	7.5	-.1	.9

^{1/} Estimates based on National Household Sample, Census and Other Relationships; includes self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers.

^{2/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Table VII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1977
STATEWIDE	329.1	338.0	339.9	302.3	314.4	320.1	26.8	23.6	19.8	8.1	7.0	5.8
GREAT FALLS SMSA	33.7	34.5	34.7	31.5	32.4	32.9	2.2	2.1	1.8	6.5	5.9	5.3
BILLINGS SMSA	51.1	51.5	51.8	48.1	48.9	49.5	3.0	2.6	2.3	5.9	5.0	4.5
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	244.3	252.0	253.4	222.7	233.1	237.7	21.6	18.9	15.7	8.8	7.5	6.2
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.3	32.8	32.8	29.1	29.9	30.3	3.2	2.9	2.5	10.0	9.0	7.6
BOZEMAN	23.2	23.3	23.4	21.4	21.7	22.2	1.8	1.6	1.2	7.9	6.7	5.2
GLASGOW	15.8	16.6	17.1	14.7	15.7	16.2	1.1	.9	.9	7.2	5.5	5.2
GLENDALE	12.9	13.6	14.0	12.2	13.0	13.6	.7	.6	.4	5.3	4.1	3.0
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.2	11.6	11.9	10.4	10.9	11.3	.8	.7	.6	7.2	5.8	5.0
HAVRE	12.2	12.5	12.7	11.4	11.8	12.2	.8	.7	.5	6.5	5.4	4.0
HELENA	23.8	24.3	24.4	22.2	22.9	23.2	1.6	1.4	1.2	6.8	5.8	5.1
KALISPELL	30.8	30.9	31.3	26.5	27.0	28.3	4.3	3.9	3.0	14.0	12.5	9.6
LEWISTOWN	9.6	10.1	10.5	8.9	9.5	10.0	.7	.6	.5	7.9	5.8	4.9
MILES CITY	14.1	14.4	14.8	13.3	13.8	14.2	.8	.6	.6	6.1	4.5	3.9
MISSOULA	42.4	43.6	43.6	38.1	39.5	40.3	4.3	4.1	3.3	10.1	9.3	7.7
SHELBY-CUT BANK	15.5	16.2	16.9	14.3	15.2	16.0	1.2	1.0	.9	7.4	6.3	5.1

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page. Map inside back cover.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE VIII

MONTANA LABOR MARKET AREAS^{1/}

Civilian Labor Force

in Thousands

	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Percent Change			Percent Change			Net Change			Net Change		
	May 1977	May 1976	1976-1977	May 1977	May 1976	1976-1977	May 1977	May 1976	1976-1977	May 1977	May 1976	1976-1977
STATEWIDE	339.9	330.4	2.9	320.1	308.1	3.9	19.8	22.3	-2.5	5.8	6.8	-1.0
GREAT FALLS SMSA	34.7	33.5	3.6	32.9	31.2	5.4	1.8	2.3	-.5	5.3	6.9	-1.6
BILLINGS SMSA	51.8	48.1	7.7	49.5	45.8	8.1	2.3	2.3	0	4.5	4.8	-.3
BALANCE OF STATE ^{2/}	253.4	248.8	1.8	237.7	231.1	2.9	15.7	17.7	-2.0	6.2	7.1	-.9
ANACONDA-BUTTE	32.8	35.2	-6.8	30.3	32.0	-5.3	2.5	3.2	-.7	7.6	9.1	-1.5
BOZEMAN	23.4	24.3	-3.7	22.2	22.8	-2.6	1.2	1.5	-.3	5.2	6.3	-.9
GLASGOW	17.1	15.3	11.8	16.2	14.6	11.0	.9	.7	.2	5.2	4.4	.8
GLENDIVE	14.0	12.5	12.0	13.6	12.1	12.4	.4	.4	0	3.0	3.1	-.1
HARDIN-RED LODGE	11.9	11.7	1.7	11.3	11.0	2.7	.6	.7	-.1	5.0	6.0	-1.0
HAVRE	12.7	11.2	13.4	12.2	10.6	15.1	.5	.6	-.1	4.0	5.2	-1.2
HELENA	24.4	23.9	2.1	23.2	22.5	3.1	1.2	1.4	-.2	5.1	5.8	-.7
KALISPELL	31.3	28.9	8.3	28.3	25.3	11.9	3.0	3.6	-.6	9.6	12.5	-2.9
LEWISTOWN	10.5	10.7	-1.9	10.0	10.2	-2.0	.5	.5	0	4.9	4.6	.3
MILES CITY	14.8	15.4	-3.9	14.2	14.8	-4.1	.6	.6	0	3.9	4.0	-.1
MISSOULA	43.6	43.0	1.4	40.3	39.4	2.3	3.3	3.6	-.3	7.7	8.4	-.7
SHELBY-CUT BANK	16.9	16.8	.6	16.0	15.9	.6	.9	.9	0	5.1	5.5	-.4

^{1/} A list of counties included in each Labor Market Area appears on "New Business Firms" page.^{2/} Statewide, excluding Great Falls and Billings Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Map inside back cover.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

TABLE IX

MONTANA MONTHLY LABOR FORCE, BY COUNTY

MAY 1977

AREA	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
BEAVERHEAD	4,300	4,162	138	3.2
BIG HORN	4,310	3,995	315	7.3
BLAINE	3,081	2,941	140	4.5
BROADWATER	1,357	1,292	65	4.8
CARBON	3,453	3,290	163	4.7
CARTER	967	953	14	1.4
CHOUTEAU	3,383	3,307	76	2.2
CUSTER	5,468	5,236	232	4.2
DANIELS	1,446	1,418	28	1.9
DAWSON	4,926	4,770	156	3.2
DEER LODGE	5,989	5,472	517	8.6
FALLON	2,135	2,094	41	1.9
FERGUS	5,270	4,986	284	5.4
FLATHEAD	18,254	16,589	1,665	9.1
GALLATIN	17,464	16,611	853	4.9
GARFIELD	908	896	12	1.3
GLACIER	4,670	4,252	418	9.0
GOLDEN VALLEY	468	445	23	4.9
GRANITE	1,042	944	98	9.4
HILL	8,426	8,083	343	4.1
JEFFERSON	3,075	2,892	183	6.0
JUDITH BASIN	1,306	1,267	39	3.0
LAKE	6,876	6,385	491	7.1
LEWIS and CLARK	19,969	18,984	985	4.9
LIBERTY	1,175	1,146	29	2.5
LINCOLN	6,180	5,319	861	13.9
McCONE	1,544	1,485	59	3.8
MADISON	2,317	2,237	80	3.5
MEAGHER	860	817	43	5.0
MINERAL	1,636	1,423	213	13.0
MISSOULA	31,366	29,208	2,158	6.9
MUSSELSHELL	1,834	1,692	142	7.7
PARK	5,072	4,751	321	6.3
PETROLEUM	336	333	3	.9
PHILLIPS	2,840	2,686	154	5.4
PONDERA	3,494	3,367	127	3.6
POWDER RIVER	1,174	1,152	22	1.9
POWELL	3,097	2,867	230	7.4
PRAIRIE	1,034	1,017	17	1.6
RAVALLI	6,465	5,779	686	10.6
RICHLAND	4,908	4,749	159	3.2
ROOSEVELT	5,665	5,412	253	4.5
ROSEBUD	4,465	4,228	237	5.3
SANDERS	4,153	3,862	291	7.0
SHERIDAN	2,451	2,400	51	2.1
SILVER BOW	16,016	14,604	1,412	8.8
STILLWATER	2,545	2,474	71	2.8
SWEET GRASS	1,605	1,562	43	2.7
TETON	2,675	2,560	115	4.3
TOOLE	2,695	2,568	127	4.7
TREASURE	558	534	24	4.3
VALLEY	4,676	4,281	395	8.4
WHEATLAND	1,326	1,297	29	2.2
WIBAUX	684	665	19	2.8

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE X

MONTANA

FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

May 1977

(In Thousands)

INDUSTRY	FEMALE EMPLOYMENT					TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COMPARISON			
	May 1977 ^{1/}	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Net Change to Current Month From:	Total		Percent Women		
					Total	Percent Women	Total	Percent Women	
	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Apr. 1977	May 1976	Apr. 1977	May 1977	Apr. 1977	
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers .	102.8	104.1	98.7	-1.3	4.1	251.3	40.9	248.5	41.9
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.7	0	.3	23.8	12.6	23.1	13.0
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	0	0	5.7	5.2	5.5	5.5
Contract Construction .....	.8	.8	.8	0	0	12.9	6.2	11.9	6.7
Transportation & Public Utilities .	3.5	3.5	3.6	0	-.1	20.0	17.5	19.9	17.6
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.8	26.9	25.2	-.1	1.6	62.1	43.2	61.0	44.1
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate ..	7.0	7.0	6.5	0	.5	11.0	63.6	11.0	63.6
Services	29.6	30.3	28.8	-.7	.8	47.4	62.4	47.6	63.7
Government ^{2/}	31.8	32.3	30.8	-.5	1.0	68.4	46.5	68.5	47.2

^{1/} Current month preliminary.

Revised to 1976 Benchmark.

Establishment Series began January 1974.

^{2/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged.

Prepared by the Montana Employment Security Division in Cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TABLE XI

MONTANA FEMALE EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

(In Thousands)

1976

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann. Avg.
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	95.5	95.4	96.5	97.6	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.4	99.5	101.2	102.2	102.6	98.8
Manufacturing	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction .....	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	23.3	23.0	23.8	24.7	25.2	25.5	26.1	25.9	26.1	26.0	26.3	26.6	25.2
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.6
Services	28.3	28.3	28.5	28.6	28.8	28.9	29.4	29.5	29.8	29.7	29.9	29.9	29.1
Government ^{1/}	30.3	30.5	30.6	30.6	30.8	30.3	29.1	28.5	29.2	31.0	31.6	31.8	30.4

1977

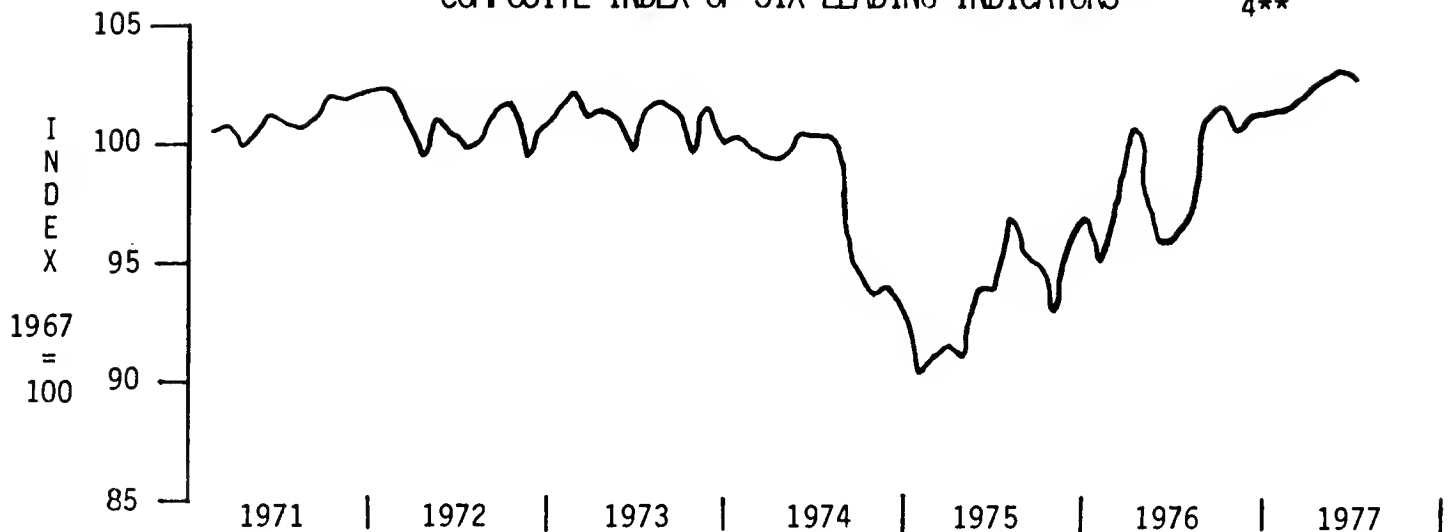
Nonagricultural Wage & Salary .	101.4	101.7	103.4	104.1	102.8
Manufacturing	3.0	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0
Mining .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Contract Construction .....	.7	.7	.7	.8	.8
Transport. & Public Utilities	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	26.0	25.9	26.6	26.9	26.8
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate .	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.0	7.0
Services	29.9	30.1	30.2	30.3	29.6
Government ^{1/}	31.2	31.4	32.3	32.3	31.8

^{1/} Includes all civilian employees of Federal, State, and Local Governments regardless of the activity in which the employee is engaged. Revised to 1976 Benchmark.
 Prepared by Montana Employment Security Division in cooperation with U. S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

COMPOSITE INDEX OF SIX LEADING INDICATORS*

4**



Composite Index of SIX LEADING INDICATORS 1967 = 100

1976

January	96.8
February	95.0
March	97.4
April	100.5
May	97.7
June	95.7
July	95.9
August	96.9
September	100.9
October	101.5
November	100.4
December	101.1

1977

January	101.4
February	102.0
March	102.7
April	102.2
May	
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

MONTANA'S COMPOSITE INDEX

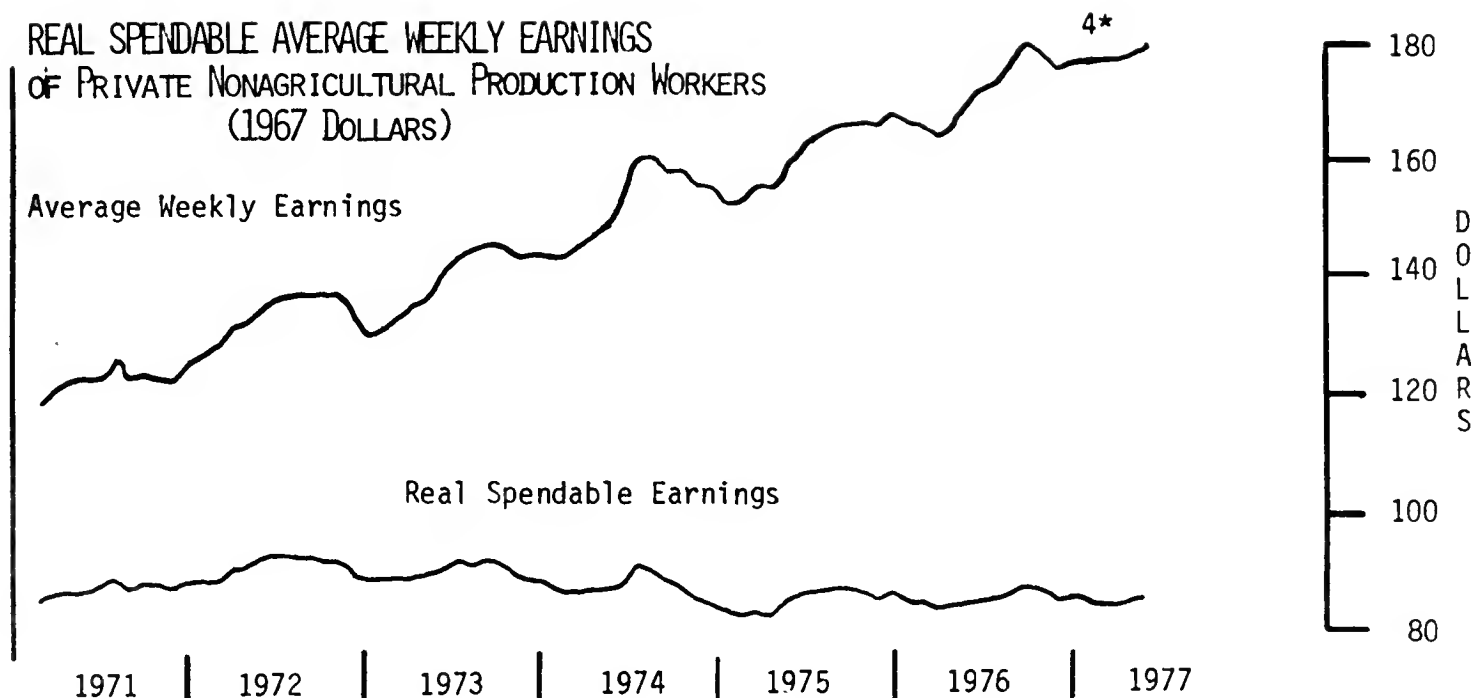
April's Composite Index slipped to 102.2, down slightly from March's record level of 102.7. Building Permits were down from the previous month (873 to 643) and Average Weekly Hours in Manufacturing fell below 40.0 hours (39.2) for the first time since September of 1976. Improving components of the index were Accessions (up 13.2%), Layoffs (down 46.7%), and Weekly Initial Claims (down 8.2%).

Preliminary data for May indicate a further decrease in the index. Building Permits are down again and Weekly Initial Claims are up. Forthcoming data on manufacturing may deter this downward trend, but it is not likely that we will witness an increase in the index value for May.

* Employment, Average Weekly Hours, Total Accessions, and Layoffs in Manufacturing; Building Permits, and Average Weekly Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims.

** Indicates last month of plotted data.

REAL SPENDABLE AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
OF PRIVATE NONAGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WORKERS
(1967 DOLLARS)



	MAY 1977	APR. 1977	MAY 1976
Gross Average Weekly Earnings	\$181.48	\$178.69	\$168.84
Taxes Withheld	28.27	27.44	24.50
Spendable Earnings	153.21	151.25	144.35
Adjustment for Price Changes Since 1967	68.38	67.04	59.04
Real Spendable Earnings in 1967 Dollars	84.83	84.21	85.31

	Average Weekly Earnings ^{1/}	Real Spendable Earnings ^{2/}
1976		
July	172.67	85.92
Aug.	175.69	86.77
Sep.	178.92	87.72
Oct.	177.79	86.90
Nov.	175.02	85.54
Dec.	175.78	85.62
1977		
Jan.	175.94	85.17
Feb.	176.00	84.35
Mar.	174.94	83.40
Apr.	178.69	84.21
May	181.48P	84.83P
June		
July		
Aug.		
Sep.		
Oct.		
Nov.		
Dec.		

SPENDABLE EARNINGS

The trend in Real Spendable Earnings seems to have been reversed in recent months. After decreasing for over six months, real wages in April rose to \$84.21. Preliminary figures for May place real spendable earnings at \$84.83. This is a welcome improvement; nevertheless, real earnings still remain below totals witnessed in the spring of 1976. Some further relief is in sight for June when revised withholding schedules should increase take-home pay.

* Indicates last month of plotted data.

p: Preliminary.

^{1/} Average weekly earnings of total private nonagricultural production workers.

^{2/} Real spendable average weekly earnings of private nonagricultural production workers.

TABLE XII
MONTANA CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						Montana	U. S.	
1975								
January	326.0	303.0	265.8	37.2	23.0	7.0	8.2	*
February	326.4	300.0	263.3	36.7	26.4	8.1	8.2	.1
March	326.0	300.0	265.2	34.8	26.0	8.0	8.7	.3
April	323.2	295.6	262.7	32.9	27.6	8.5	8.9	.2
May	325.6	299.0	265.1	33.9	26.6	8.2	9.2	.1
June	327.4	299.7	267.7	32.0	27.7	8.4	8.6	.1
July	327.8	301.3	268.9	32.4	26.5	8.1	8.4	.2
August	329.3	302.9	270.2	32.7	26.4	8.0	8.4	*
September	333.1	306.3	273.7	32.6	26.8	8.1	8.3	.3
October	336.4	308.4	273.1	35.3	28.0	8.3	8.6	.3
November	341.0	313.0	275.4	37.6	28.0	8.2	8.3	.2
December	343.5	314.0	274.6	39.4	29.5	8.6	8.3	.2
1975 Avg.	330.5	303.6	268.8	34.8	26.9	8.1	8.5	.1
1976								
January	342.7	315.0	274.6	40.4	27.7	8.1	7.8	*
February	341.1	314.6	275.6	39.0	26.5	7.8	7.6	*
March	337.8	309.9	273.8	36.1	27.9	8.3	7.5	*
April	332.6	307.2	272.2	35.0	25.4	7.6	7.5	*
May	328.2	302.9	269.4	33.5	25.3	7.7	7.3	*
June	320.7	293.6	261.9	31.7	27.1	8.4	7.5	.1
July	321.6	294.4	264.5	29.9	27.2	8.5	7.8	.1
August	319.1	292.2	262.3	29.9	26.9	8.4	7.9	.1
September	322.4	297.7	267.5	30.2	24.7	7.7	7.8	.1
October	332.8	307.9	273.6	34.3	24.9	7.5	7.9	.1
November	338.4	313.9	278.7	35.2	24.5	7.3	8.1	.1
December	337.9	314.0	278.2	35.8	23.9	7.1	7.8	.1
1976 Avg.	331.3	305.3	271.1	34.2	26.0	7.8	7.7	.1
1977								
January	341.7	315.9	283.1	32.8	25.8	7.6	7.3	.1
February	342.5	318.4	285.1	33.3	24.1	7.0	7.5	.1
March	338.6	315.0	282.7	32.3	23.6	7.0	7.3	.1
April	342.0	318.8	281.8	37.0	23.2	6.8	7.0	.1
May	337.6	314.8	280.2	34.6	22.8	6.8	6.9	.1
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

RESIDENCE DATA

TABLE XIII
GREAT FALLS SMSA (CASCADE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	32.4	30.3	28.7	1.6	2.1	6.5	7.0	*
February	32.7	30.0	28.5	1.5	2.7	8.3	8.1	*
March	32.5	29.9	28.5	1.4	2.6	8.1	8.0	.1
April	32.6	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.8	8.7	8.5	.1
May	32.4	29.9	28.6	1.3	2.5	7.8	8.2	*
June	32.2	29.7	28.5	1.2	2.5	7.8	8.4	*
July	32.4	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.6	8.2	8.1	*
August	32.5	29.8	28.5	1.3	2.7	8.2	8.0	*
September	32.7	30.0	28.8	1.2	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
October	33.0	30.0	28.7	1.3	3.0	9.0	8.3	*
November	33.6	30.8	29.3	1.5	2.8	8.3	8.2	*
December	33.4	30.5	29.0	1.5	2.9	8.8	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	32.7	30.0	28.6	1.4	2.7	8.2	8.1	*
1976								
January	33.7	31.0	29.3	1.7	2.7	8.0	8.1	*
February	33.6	31.0	29.4	1.6	2.6	7.7	7.8	*
March	33.7	30.8	29.4	1.4	2.9	8.6	8.3	*
April	32.5	29.8	28.4	1.4	2.7	8.3	7.6	*
May	33.1	30.7	29.4	1.3	2.4	7.3	7.7	*
June	33.3	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.9	8.8	8.4	*
July	33.1	30.3	29.1	1.2	2.8	8.4	8.5	*
August	33.0	30.4	29.2	1.2	2.6	8.0	8.4	*
September	32.9	30.6	29.4	1.2	2.3	6.9	7.7	*
October	34.0	31.5	30.2	1.3	2.5	7.4	7.5	*
November	34.2	31.7	30.3	1.4	2.5	7.3	7.3	*
December	34.1	31.8	30.4	1.4	2.3	6.8	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	33.5	30.9	29.5	1.4	2.6	7.8	7.8	*
1977								
January	34.9	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.5	7.2	7.6	*
February	34.5	32.4	31.0	1.4	2.1	6.2	7.0	*
March	34.4	32.4	31.1	1.3	2.0	5.8	7.0	*
April	34.5	32.3	30.8	1.5	2.2	6.3	6.8	*
May	34.3	32.4	31.0	1.4	1.9	5.7	6.8	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

^{1/} Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

^{2/} Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

N.B.: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

TABLE XIV
BILLINGS SMSA (YELLOWSTONE COUNTY)
Civilian Labor Force
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(in Thousands)

RESIDENCE DATA

Date	Civilian Labor Force	EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			Labor Manage- ment Dispute ^{2/}
		Total	Non-Ag	Agri.	Total	Percent ^{1/}		
						County	State	
1975								
January	46.9	44.0	42.3	1.7	2.9	6.2	7.0	*
February	46.6	43.3	41.6	1.7	3.3	7.0	8.1	*
March	46.5	43.3	41.7	1.6	3.2	7.0	8.0	.1
April	47.3	43.7	42.2	1.5	3.6	7.6	8.5	*
May	47.3	44.3	42.8	1.5	3.0	6.3	8.2	*
June	47.3	44.2	42.7	1.5	3.1	6.5	8.4	*
July	47.8	44.7	43.3	1.4	3.1	6.5	8.1	*
August	48.2	45.0	43.4	1.6	3.2	6.5	8.0	*
September	48.6	45.4	43.9	1.5	3.2	6.6	8.1	.2
October	48.0	44.8	43.2	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.3	.2
November	49.0	45.9	44.2	1.7	3.1	6.3	8.2	*
December	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.6	*
1975 Avg.	47.7	44.5	42.9	1.6	3.2	6.7	8.1	*
1976								
January	49.0	45.8	44.0	1.8	3.2	6.6	8.1	*
February	48.8	45.9	44.2	1.7	2.9	6.0	7.8	*
March	48.7	45.6	44.0	1.6	3.1	6.4	8.3	*
April	48.7	45.7	44.1	1.6	3.0	6.2	7.6	*
May	47.9	45.3	43.8	1.5	2.6	5.5	7.7	*
June	48.9	45.7	44.2	1.5	3.2	6.5	8.4	*
July	48.7	45.7	44.4	1.3	3.0	6.2	8.5	*
August	48.7	45.8	44.3	1.5	2.9	5.9	8.4	*
September	49.9	47.2	45.8	1.4	2.7	5.4	7.7	*
October	50.4	47.7	46.1	1.6	2.7	5.5	7.5	*
November	50.9	48.1	46.5	1.6	2.8	5.4	7.3	*
December	51.0	48.1	46.4	1.7	2.9	5.7	7.1	*
1976 Avg.	49.3	46.4	44.8	1.6	2.9	5.9	7.8	*
1977								
January	52.2	48.9	47.5	1.4	3.3	6.3	7.6	*
February	52.6	49.6	48.1	1.5	3.0	5.7	7.0	*
March	52.7	49.7	48.3	1.4	3.0	5.7	7.0	*
April	51.9	49.2	47.5	1.7	2.7	5.3	6.8	*
May	51.7	49.0	47.4	1.6	2.7	5.2	6.8	*
June								
July								
August								
September								
October								
November								
December								
Avg.								

1/ Computed from whole (unrounded) numbers.

2/ Non-additive - included in total employment.

* Under 50.

Series began January 1970.

Revised to 1976 Benchmarks.

Current month preliminary.

NOTE: Seasonally adjusted data are provided for statistical analysis only and should not be confused with actual numbers.

TABLE XV

MONTANA HOURS AND EARNINGS

For Private Nonagricultural Industries

MAY 1977

	<u>Average Weekly Earnings</u>		<u>Average Weekly Hours</u>		<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>	
	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976	May 1977	Apr. 1977	May 1976
TOTAL PRIVATE	\$181.48	\$178.69	\$166.72	34.9	34.9	35.7
MANUFACTURING	248.53	252.72	222.34	39.2	40.5	38.6
Durable Goods	251.46	254.00	216.40	39.6	41.3	38.3
Primary Metal Industries	289.38	296.70	263.42	40.7	40.7	38.4
Nondurable Goods	243.32	250.00	236.16	38.5	38.7	39.1
Food and Kindred Products	219.64	216.59	227.92	38.0	37.8	39.5
MINING	327.49	328.42	297.55	43.9	45.3	43.2
Metal Mining	310.70	310.70	286.47	42.1	42.1	41.1
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	352.29	338.72	306.56	39.1	38.8	37.8
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES	291.92	292.63	259.43	41.0	41.1	40.4
Communications, Electric, Gas, Sanitary Services	265.20	263.98	226.20	40.8	40.8	40.6
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	148.86	143.45	138.45	34.7	34.4	35.5
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	134.66	131.02	124.75	37.2	36.7	36.8
SERVICES	107.25	109.35	106.79	28.6	28.7	31.5

Data for current month are preliminary.

Averages are based on gross earnings, including overtime and premium pay.

Selected Industries series began January 1950; Total Private Sector series began January 1969 (May 1972 issue).
Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

ESTABLISHMENT DATA

TABLE XVI

MONTANA LABOR TURNOVER RATES

In Manufacturing and Mining Industries

(per 100 employees)

MAY 1977

	ACCESSION RATES				SEPARATION RATES										
	Total		New Hires		Total		Quits		Layoffs						
	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1976	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977	Apr. 1977	Mar. 1977					
MANUFACTURING	4.0	3.2	4.5	3.0	2.6	3.6	3.1	3.9	2.5	1.8	1.3	1.4	0.6	2.0	0.4
Durable Goods	4.1	3.2	4.4	2.9	2.7	3.2	3.1	2.4	2.2	1.9	1.0	1.4	0.7	0.9	0.2
Primary Metal Industries	2.6	4.8	5.0	2.4	4.0	2.2	2.5	3.5	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.2	1.2	2.6	0.1
Nondurable Goods	3.9	3.0	4.7	3.2	2.6	4.5	3.2	6.4	2.8	1.6	1.8	1.2	0.4	3.9	0.9
MINING	2.8	3.3	2.5	1.0	2.0	0.6	2.2	3.0	1.4	0.5	1.5	0.4	1.0	0.7	0.1
Metal Mining	4.2	3.0	1.6	0.1	*	0.0	1.3	3.3	1.6	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.9	0.0

* Less than .05.

Prepared by U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Series began January 1959.

TABLE XVII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY INDUSTRY

New business firms in Montana are a reflection of economic activity within the business community. Data furnished on this page and the following page are an aggregate of information supplied by the office of the Montana Secretary of State and the Montana Employment Security Division. These data should in no way be construed as being absolute. They are presented to indicate business trends during the survey period.

The chart on the following page is a break-down by county and labor market area of business starts in Montana during the current month and year to date, with a comparison to the previous year.

The following chart is a break-down of new businesses by industry, with a comparison to last year.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>May 1977</u>	<u>May 1976</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
			<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	33	24	137	112
MINING	12	6	64	33
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	72	38	352	150
MANUFACTURING	25	15	93	43
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	15	9	69	29
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	103	41	501	186
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	40	18	195	101
SERVICES	126	60	610	344
GOVERNMENT	0	0	0	0
NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED	17	0	44	0
STATE TOTAL	443	211	2,065	998

TABLE XVIII
NEW BUSINESS FIRMS IN MONTANA
BY LABOR MARKET AREA

NEW BUSINESS FIRMS					NEW BUSINESS FIRMS				
Areas	May 1977	May 1976	Year to Date		Areas	May 1977	May 1976	Year to Date	
			1977	1976				1977	1976
STATE OF MONTANA	443	211	2065	998	HAVRE LMA	21	4	71	32
					Blaine	2	0	10	3
GREAT FALLS SMSA	47	18	242	99	Hill	16	4	42	25
					Liberty	3	0	19	4
BILLINGS SMSA	61	39	296	150	HELENA LMA	34	18	157	74
					Broadwater	2	0	8	1
					Jefferson	4	2	11	8
					Lewis and Clark	28	16	138	65
ANACONDA-BUTTE LMA	22	13	146	85	KALISPELL LMA	51	30	245	116
Beaverhead	0	2	15	19	Flathead	39	15	168	78
Deer Lodge	6	3	9	10	Lake	6	7	42	27
Granite	0	1	4	1	Lincoln	6	8	35	11
Madison	3	1	18	5	LEWISTOWN LMA	8	4	44	18
Powell	1	1	10	8	Fergus	8	0	31	10
Silver Bow	12	5	90	42	Golden Valley	0	0	1	1
BOZEMAN LMA	37	21	204	81	Judith Basin	0	0	2	0
Gallatin	29	15	159	63	Musselshell	0	3	9	5
Meagher	1	0	3	2	Petroleum	0	1	0	2
Park	7	6	42	16	Wheatland	0	0	1	0
GLASGOW LMA	17	6	58	53	MILES CITY LMA	14	9	59	44
Daniels	1	4	3	16	Carter	2	0	5	1
Phillips	0	0	4	1	Custer	8	2	33	15
Roosevelt	5	2	18	14	Fallon	1	4	4	8
Sheridan	5	0	10	11	Powder River	2	0	2	3
Valley	6	0	23	11	Rosebud	1	2	12	14
GLENDIVE LMA	22	6	71	36	Treasure	0	1	3	3
Dawson	6	0	22	13	MISSOULA LMA	79	26	327	130
Garfield	0	0	3	2	Mineral	4	0	6	1
McCone	1	0	2	6	Missoula	60	20	241	99
Prairie	1	1	10	3	Ravalli	11	1	55	15
Richland	14	5	32	12	Sanders	4	5	25	15
Wibaux	0	0	2	0	SHELBY-CUT BANK LMA	22	11	101	49
HARDIN-RED LODGE LMA	8	6	44	31	Chouteau	2	4	11	11
Big Horn	1	0	12	7	Glacier	6	2	15	12
Carbon	5	4	21	15	Pondera	7	2	33	6
Stillwater	1	2	8	6	Teton	1	1	7	9
Sweet Grass	1	0	3	3	Toole	6	2	35	11

Source of data: State of Montana Employment Security Division, Research and Analysis Section; Montana Secretary of State.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE: CLAIM TO PAYMENT

The bulk of those persons who become separated from their jobs, enter one of our 23 local Job Service offices for two reasons; to seek employment and to claim unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Claimant wage credits obtained from insured employers are examined to determine if the claim meets monetary eligibility requirements for UI benefits and, if so, for how much per week and for how many potential weeks is the claimant qualified.* Monetarily eligible claims are subsequently segregated according to criteria for establishing which party (claimant or employer) was most responsible for the job separation in question. Claims for job separations resulting from claimant actions (issues) are further subjected to the test of whether or not an individual's reduction in his potential benefit duration is warranted. If otherwise eligible and if availability criteria continue to be complied with throughout his actual unemployment duration, weekly benefit payments will commence with the claimant's second week of unemployment (a waiting week must be served under the Montana Law). The number and amount of such payments by county are shown in the table on the following page. Interstate payments in the table refer to payments made to individuals who now reside in other states but who had established wage credits in Montana based employment. Amounts shown in the table are financed through employer taxes paid to the Montana UI Trust Fund Account.

* *If sufficient wage credits have been secured by a claimant from sources other than insured employment, he may be eligible for benefits which are financed wholly or partially from federal funds.*

TABLE XIX DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

MAY 1977

INTRASTATE

COUNTY

NO. OF PAYS

AMT. OF PAYS

BEAVERHEAD	163	11,137.00
BIG HORN	264	19,391.00
BLAINE	121	8,214.00
BROADWATER	52	3,876.00
CARBON	270	19,370.00
CARTER	7	418.00
CASCADE	1,972	139,515.50
CHOUTEAU	87	5,883.00
CUSTER	211	15,723.00
DANIELS	15	1,090.00
DAWSON	175	12,601.00
DEER LODGE	754	62,225.00
FALLON	17	1,316.00
FERGUS	338	24,211.00
FLATHEAD	2,320	173,093.00
GALLATIN	1,236	90,210.00
GARFIELD	6	574.00
GLACIER	571	44,498.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	28	1,775.00
GRANITE	169	13,151.00
HILL	299	20,989.00
JEFFERSON	241	18,215.00
JUDITH BASIN	40	2,980.00
LAKE	565	39,816.00
LEWIS & CLARK	1,248	94,308.05
LIBERTY	16	1,140.00
LINCOLN	1,340	106,240.00
MADISON	92	6,073.00
MCCONE	56	3,375.00
MEAGHER	64	4,421.00
MINERAL	295	23,343.00
MISSOULA	2,508	181,482.00
MUSSELSHELL	255	19,384.00
PARK	430	29,323.41
PETROLEUM	2	194.00
PHILLIPS	138	9,126.00
PONDERA	108	7,566.00
POWDER RIVER	12	980.00
POWELL	348	27,829.00
PRAIRIE	31	2,117.00
RAVALLI	687	46,916.00
RICHLAND	165	12,448.00
ROOSEVELT	246	16,861.00
ROSEBUD	382	29,952.00
SANDERS	351	25,211.00
SHERIDAN	38	2,621.00
SILVER BOW	2,195	174,753.00
STILLWATER	100	7,927.00
SWEETGRASS	39	2,997.00
TETON	107	7,218.00
TOOLE	172	13,911.00
TREASURE	30	2,168.00
VALLEY	377	26,122.00
WHEATLAND	17	1,605.00
WIBAUX	24	1,415.00
YELLOWSTONE	3,315	253,335.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	25,109	1,872,632.96
INTERSTATE	2,042	209,528.47
TOTAL	27,151	2,082,161.43

TABLE XX

CUMULATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
JANUARY THRU MAY 1977

INTRASTATE

COUNTY	NO. OF PAYS	AMT. OF PAYS
BEAVERHEAD	1,315	95,322.00
BIG HORN	2,256	177,751.00
BLAINE	1,140	80,334.00
BROADWATER	545	39,808.00
CARBON	1,701	127,468.00
CARTER	133	9,936.00
CASCADE	16,796	1,227,057.50
CHOUTEAU	744	49,435.00
CUSTER	2,927	235,323.00
DANIELS	242	19,482.00
DAWSON	2,139	156,138.00
DEER LODGE	4,528	361,153.00
FALLON	288	24,213.00
FERGUS	3,316	249,061.00
FLATHEAD	16,482	1,225,044.49
GALLATIN	8,856	665,060.00
GARFIELD	195	15,974.00
GLACIER	3,766	278,743.00
GOLDEN VALLEY	155	10,351.00
GRANITE	1,170	88,955.00
HILL	3,141	234,758.00
JEFFERSON	1,986	161,392.00
JUDITH BASIN	218	17,222.00
LAKE	4,411	307,936.00
LEWIS & CLARK	9,399	720,991.97
LIBERTY	167	12,139.00
LINCOLN	7,639	593,799.00
MADISON	824	52,823.00
MCCONE	310	21,359.00
MEAGHER	552	44,396.00
MINERAL	2,066	151,147.68
MISSOULA	19,112	1,378,442.50
MUSSELSHELL	1,779	137,961.00
PARK	3,448	238,073.63
PETROLEUM	29	2,781.00
PHILLIPS	977	67,194.00
PONDERA	1,093	83,460.00
POWDER RIVER	212	19,569.00
POWELL	2,177	172,084.00
PRAIRIE	459	37,997.00
RAVALLI	5,108	360,357.00
RICHLAND	1,348	102,418.00
ROOSEVELT	1,777	123,787.00
ROSEBUD	2,714	222,447.00
SANDERS	2,590	187,928.00
SHERIDAN	498	37,561.00
SILVER BOW	15,407	1,228,636.00
STILLWATER	1,027	86,063.00
SWEETGRASS	316	25,839.00
TETON	962	70,491.75
TOOLE	1,303	103,035.00
TREASURE	283	23,286.00
VALLEY	3,110	228,117.00
WHEATLAND	276	23,877.00
WIBAUX	221	13,870.00
YELLOWSTONE	24,294	1,916,831.00
TOTAL FOR STATE	189,927	14,346,678.52
INTERSTATE	14,269	1,399,862.64
TOTAL	204,196	15,746,541.16

TABLE XXI

SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACTIVITIES IN MONTANA

	<u>ANNUAL</u>		<u>Net Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
	<u>1976</u>	<u>1975</u>		
Initial Claims ^{1/}	47,963	45,442	2,521	5.5
Continued Claims ^{1/}	467,666	486,975	-19,309	-4.0
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	396,944	433,221	-36,277	-8.4
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$26,260,735	\$25,176,953	\$1,083,782	4.3
Trust Fund Balance	\$ 1,008,042*	\$ 7,003,178*	-\$5,995,136	-85.6

	<u>MONTHLY</u>			<u>Change From Year Ago</u>	
	<u>May 1977</u>	<u>Apr. 1977</u>	<u>May 1976</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Initial Claims ^{1/}	2,586	3,716	2,365	221	9.3
Continued Claims ^{1/}	30,003	39,009	32,973	-2,970	-9.0
Number of Benefit Payments ^{1/}	27,151	37,403	28,549	-1,398	-4.9
Amount of Benefits Paid ^{1/}	\$2,082,162	\$2,886,263	\$1,859,217	\$ 222,945	12.0
Trust Fund Balance	\$7,201,930*	\$3,660,827*	\$3,843,639*	\$3,358,291	87.4

^{1/} Regular Unemployment Insurance Program only.

* Includes loans from Federal Government.

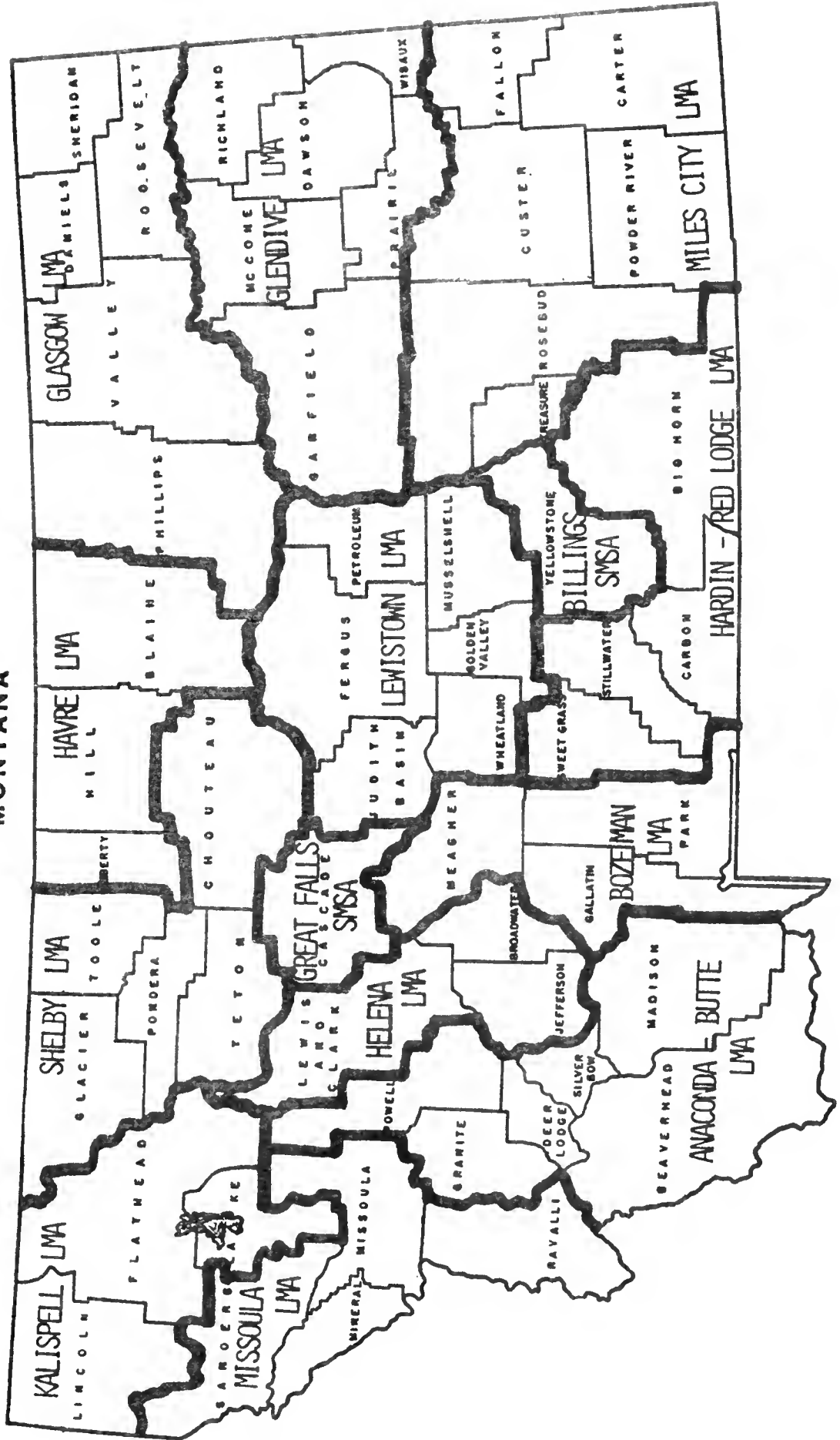
For the most part, Unemployment Insurance statistics for May signify additional employment opportunities and subsequent economic growth. The number of continued claims and the number of benefit payments declined from last month and from last year, which, incidentally, is the third straight month for such occurrence. The amount of benefits paid declined during the month, despite the fact that inflation created an increase in this series since last year. Finally, the Trust Fund Balance, although still substandard, also improved significantly during May.

On the negative side initial claims decreased during the month as expected, but increased since May of last year. One month's data, however, do not necessarily indicate a trend toward accelerated growth in unemployment.

LABOR MARKET AREAS

IN

MONTANA



EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
P. O. Box 1728
Helena, Montana 59601

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

The Montana State Employment Security Division maintains 23 local Job Service Offices in the principal cities of Montana. You are invited to call on any of these offices for assistance in filling positions in your organization, additional labor market information, and for other services in connection with your employment problems.